

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

Hearing Date: April 21, 2021 8:00 AM

Printed on: April 29, 2021 4:21 PM

COMMENTS FOR: HB 2293

Bill Sargent, Former Chief Deputy Clerk for Elections, Galveston County

self

Galveston, TX

I am writing ON this bill, not for or against it. I like the thrust of what the author is attempting to do, but am concerned that if you give some counties the authority to be open from 6 in the morning until 9 at night that doing so may cause problems.

The major issue is in getting an adequate number of knowledgeable election workers who are willing to work fifteen hours. Actually, that would be more like 16-17 hours given the time needed to get ready to open the polls and then to close them each day. We have enough problems getting election workers and authorizing that many hours could drastically reduce the number of workers who are willing to serve.

The author might want to consider limiting the number of hours to no more than twelve per day and then stating the range of hours (i.e., no earlier than 6 a.m. nor later than 9 p.m.).

Better yet specify the hours as 8-5 during the first week of early voting, 7-7 on Saturday, 1-6 on Sunday and 7-7 Monday through Friday of the second week of early voting.

shawn flanagan

self/retired

corpus christi, TX

vote yes, brings clarity. Only cheating occurs with 24 hour voting.

Shelley Barineau

Self

HOUSTON, TX

in FAVOR of HB 4044 and HB 2339. Please protect Texas

Jessie Carlson

self

Corpus Chrsiti, TX

Vote yes.

iBill Sargent

Self

Galveston, TX

An additional comment. Some witnesses have said that counties need to be able to set polling hours, whatever they may be, based upon the needs of their voters. If that is the case then you should require that ALL polling places in a county shall be open for the same period of time. Doing this would stop counties from favoring certain parts of their county and certain constituencies. The same rules and hours should apply to all polling locations, no favorites to any particular constituencies!

RICHARD BOHNERT

self A/C contractor

COMFORT, TX

My name is Richard Bohnert, I live in Comfort, Texas Kerr county. I am in favor of HB 2293. Please pass out of committee. Thank you.

Dave Augustus

self

Argyle, TX

Imposing limitations on the counties within the state of Texas is needful as it helps to ensure election integrity. The hours suggested in this bill provide adequate hours for early voting to occur. I support HB 2293.

Thank You,
Dave Augustus
Argyle Texas

Paula Clark

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Please vote FOR this bill

Paula Clark

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Please vote FOR this bill

Alan Vera, Chairman

Harris County Republican Party Ballot Security Committee

Houston, TX

Alan Vera, Chairman, Harris County Republican Party Ballot Security Committee, testifying IN FAVOR OF HB 2293.

The testimony from the Texas Civil Rights Project regarding the percentage of voters of color utilizing extended voting hours in

higher proportion to their utilization of normal early voting hours should be heavily discounted, if not ignored.

Actual Texas voting data DOES NOT include any indications of race or ethnicity. So, the “conclusions” presented in that testimony is NOT based on real data, but apparently on “estimated” (his word) observations by personnel standing outside the polling places in the dark, guessing the race or ethnicity of the voters entering or exiting the polling places. They would have had to do that both at extended-hours polls and the non-extended-hours polls in order to make a comparison. The witness did not provide any information on the sample size used, the qualification of the observers to distinguish ethnicities of voters in the dark, or the range of random error created by the example. The “data” cited in the testimony and handouts is suspect at best.

Extended hours for early voting, especially with 24-hour polls, seriously stretches the ability of ANY county to have qualified election clerks present, and invites errors by the presiding and alternate judges who are more fatigued than they normally are. Today we don’t require election workers to have a high school diploma, a G.E.D. equivalent, pass a reading comprehension test or pass a math comprehension test. Our standards are not high. In order to staff 24-hour polls, we have to dig deeper into the labor pool and quality would drop further. That’s a problem.

Please refer HB 2293 FAVORABLY to the full House.

Bonnie Seelig

Self Retired

Spicewood, TX

Voting between 6:00 am - 9:00 pm is important to the security of the vote. Bad things happen late into the evening when "no one is watching." When everyone is tired and ready to go home, chain of custody is at risk. The most insecure time in the voting process is the time between Early Voting closing on Friday evening and Election Day 7:00 am. How are the ballots protected? Are the votes guarded? Who has the combination to the "locked area." Who is around to check? Are there 2 people - one from each party? Are video cameras working? SECURITY IS THE BIGGEST SUPPORTER OF FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS!

Virginia Sidrony

Self Fort Bend County VDR

Sugar Land, TX

Chairman Cain, Vice-Chairman Gonzalez, and other Elections Committee members, my name is Virginia Sidrony. I am a long-time resident of Fort Bend County, and I am a constituent of Representative Jetton.

I am extremely concerned that this bill does not really have anything to do with “Voting Integrity”, but actually have more to do with “Voter Suppression”.

HB 3974 - Lines 22-27 on page 1 and line 1 on page 2, are essentially overkill. I am concerned that it not only makes it more difficult for voters, but it also oversteps the bounds of their privacy. I fear that a large majority of voters will see “Voter Suppression”, not “Voting Integrity”.

I sincerely hope this Committee will give careful consideration to my concerns, as well as those of others, relative to this worrisome bill.

Thank you.

Virginia Sidrony

Self Fort Bend County VDR

Sugar Land, TX

Chairman Cain, Vice-Chairman Gonzalez, and other Elections Committee members, my name is Virginia Sidrony. I am a long-time resident of Fort Bend County, and I am a constituent of Representative Jetton.

I am extremely concerned that this bill does not really have anything to do with “Voting Integrity”, but actually has more to do with “Voter Suppression”.

HB 2293 – Not allowing at least one 24-hour polling time deprives shift workers from being able to vote. Our representative democracy requires that ALL registered voters be allowed to vote. Also, a large majority of shift workers do not meet Texas’ rigid requirements to use mail-in ballots.

I sincerely hope this Committee will give careful consideration to my concerns, as well as those of thers, relative to this worrisome bill.

Thank you.

Beth Biesel, TEF Election Integrity Chair

Texas Eagle Forum

Dallas, TX

Texas Eagle Forum does not support this bill. The voting hours need to happen 7am and 7:00pm, except on Sunday, 1pm-6:00pm.
